



Wisconsin Crop Progress

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Corn Planting Has Begun

With the dry stretch and warmer weather, Wisconsin **corn** planting moved at a rapid pace last week to 56 percent planted. There were still some wet areas in many fields across the state that were making planting somewhat difficult. However, several reporters noted progress on early planted corn, with emergence at 7 percent.

Average high temperatures were in the mid to upper 60s and average low temperatures ranged from 40 to 44 degrees. Precipitation totals last week ranged from 0.15 inches in Eau Claire to 1.18 inches in Green Bay. Soil moisture conditions were at 1 percent very short, 3 percent short, 78 percent adequate, and 18 percent surplus. There were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork last week.

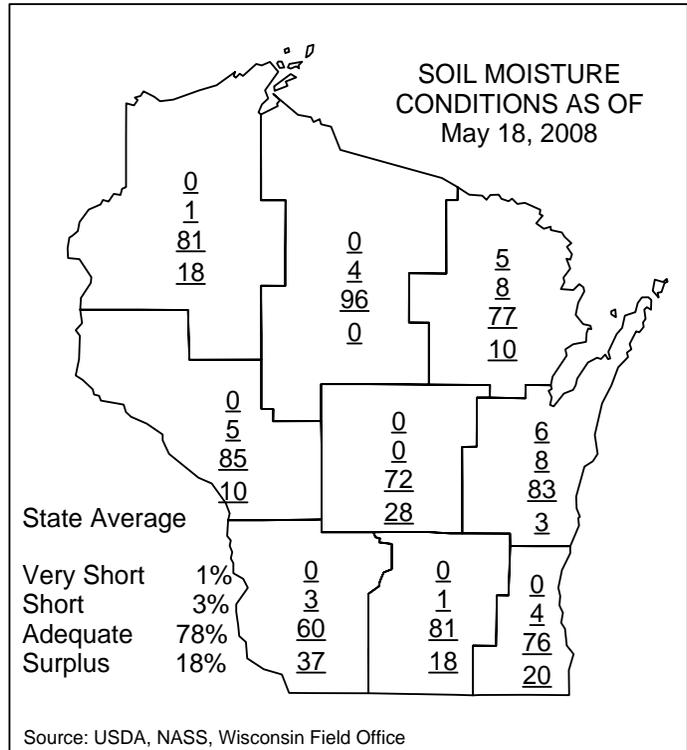
Some growers got a good start on **soybean** planting, with planting reported as 22 percent complete. Emergence is reported as being slow.

The planting of **oats** continued. Early planted oats were reported as up and greening, with one report of early oats at 3.0 inches high. Oats planted were at 83 percent complete, with 42 percent emerged.

With the favorable weather, **spring tillage** was progressing at full force with 66 percent complete. One Southwestern county reported slow progress due to excessively wet soils. **No-till** planting was going much faster than it had in the last few weeks.

Alfalfa was really starting to grow in some areas, while other areas of the state reported slow growth due to cool soil temperatures and lack of sunshine and heat. **Alfalfa** and **winter wheat** were looking good for the most part, but there were reports of visible winter injury and some yellowing where the soils were too wet. **Winter wheat** conditions were 11 percent poor or very poor, 18 percent fair, 51 percent good, and 20 percent excellent. Two Southeastern counties reported **wheat** at a foot tall and growing rapidly. **Hay** fields were showing slow growth for this time of year, due to below average temperatures and excess moisture.

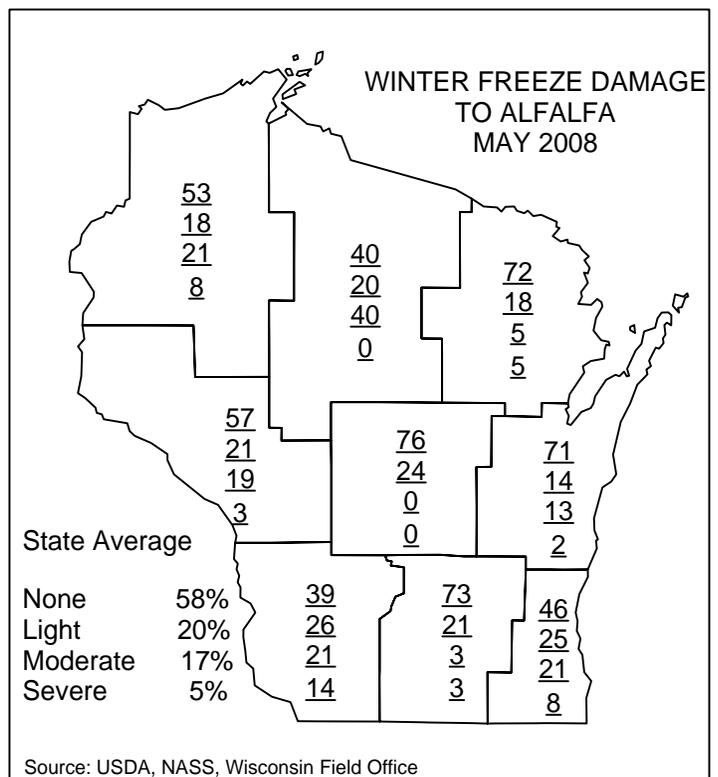
Potato planting was reported as nearing completion. **Fruit tree** buds were starting to open in several counties, with one report of winter damage to some **apple trees** in a Northwestern area of the state. **Strawberries** were also starting to blossom. Some **peas** were being planted, with a report of **early peas** beginning to bloom. One area reported first cuttings of **forages** and **winter rye**. Soils were still too cold for **pumpkin** planting.



Wisconsin Crop Conditions as of May 18, 2008

Item	V.-poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat	1	10	18	51	20
Pasture	0	4	21	50	25

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office



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Crop and percent of acreage	District average									State average		
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	This year	Last year	5-year average
Corn planted	40	30	58	60	35	57	79	54	62	56	85	75
Corn emerged	1	0	2	3	1	10	22	6	7	7	43	27
Soybeans planted	3	0	23	26	10	18	50	15	28	22	52	37
Oats planted	73	75	73	91	53	82	95	93	95	83	97	97
Oats emerged	12	5	20	42	20	40	78	55	52	42	80	75
Spring tillage completed	63	62	60	66	47	72	80	68	74	66	88	83

Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

Quotes from Farm Reporters and County Ag Agents

CHIPPEWA-T.P.: A dry stretch of weather has planting going at full speed.

WASHBURN-K.S.: Lots of activity out in the fields this week. Ideal weather conditions, and drying winds helped farmers get on with tillage and planting. Some of the heavier soils are still a little too wet to work. Lots of corn planting is going on. Finishing up on seeding oats. Some contemplation on soybean planting. Alfalfa and grass pastures are very slow to grow; attributed mostly to cool soil temperatures. We are seeing more evidence of winter injury. Last years' drought and lack of forage put stress on perennial forages.

SHAWANO-T.B.: The couple of light rain events we had this week did not slow the progress of tillage or planting. Planting is progressing well. There was more done this week than the whole spring combined. Every grower was able to find land that was dry enough to work and plant. Crops are slow to emerge. We could use some more heat units to push the crops along.

BUFFALO-R.S.: There is a lot of fieldwork going on. Clay soils are too wet yet. Soil temperatures are in the low 40's. Hayfields seem slow to grow for mid-May.

PEPIN-R.C.: This is the first week this spring for tillage and planting. The rains finally slowed enough to let the soil dry down adequately for work. Planting is behind average but is going full speed now. Alfalfa came through the winter very well.

PIERCE-J.K.: A lot of corn was planted last week. Soybeans are starting to be planted. It took oats one week to emerge. Have not seen any corn up as of yet. Operators in some parts of the county are still dealing with wet soils. The cooler weather is keeping hay growth at a standstill.

WAUPACA-D.H.: Spring planting and tillage is progressing at a rapid pace with the favorable weather this week. Some winter wheat is yellow where soils are too wet. Over-all soil temperatures are still too cold for germination.

WAUSHARA-L.K.: Potatoes are nearly all planted. Corn is being planted also. Sandy soil is in excellent condition for planting.

FOND DU LAC-R.P.: Corn planting is done. Some farmers are done with soybeans planting too. Hayfields look poor as we move into mid-May. There are a lot of

bare spots in fields. Excess moisture really impacted hay and wheat. Some hay is being cut today. Need some warm temperatures to get crops planted.

SHEBOYGAN-M.B.: Weather and soil conditions allowed corn planting to proceed full speed ahead this past week.

GRANT-G.C.: Spring tillage is going very slow due to excessive wet soils. The lightest rain makes fields too wet to plant. Due to wet, cold weather, plant growth is very slow.

IOWA-K.V.: Lots of corn is being planted. Will finish corn and soybeans by the middle of the week. Alfalfa and winter wheat look good.

DODGE-G.R.: Finally a week of generally warmer and drier weather enabled many to get a handle on planting. Fields are drying out except for spongy spots. Lots of corn and some soybeans are going in. Alfalfa and winter wheat are growing rapidly.

GREEN-F.Z.: Some corn is up. There are wet spots in some fields. Hay and oats look good.

WASHINGTON-R.B.: You see tractors all over the place. Corn planting is not easy; one field can go from dry to wet. First corn that was planted is starting to sprout. Soybeans planted a week ago are very slow to grow. Wheat is a foot tall or more and is starting to get a little dark green. Alfalfa is a foot tall.

WAUKESHA-R.F.: Farmers were able to do fieldwork, but it is still plenty wet. Need sunshine and heat.



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Wisconsin Weekly Weather, Selected Cities, Ending as of 7:00 a.m. on May 18, 2008

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to May 17	Mar. 1 to May 17 normal *	Last week	Since March 1	March 1 dep. from normal *	Year to date	Year dep. from normal *
Eau Claire	67	40	76	29	53	-4	254	285	0.15	7.47	0.86	9.12	0.68
Green Bay	67	43	74	36	55	0	234	237	1.18	7.73	1.74	11.52	3.30
La Crosse	68	44	76	34	56	-4	281	338	0.43	10.13	2.95	11.92	2.54
Madison	66	42	73	35	54	-3	285	331	0.25	10.00	2.71	15.50	5.63
Milwaukee	63	43	72	40	53	-2	229	n.a.	0.26	8.33	0.25	13.06	1.51

1/Formula used: GDD = (daily maximum (86°) + daily minimum (50°))/2-50°; where 86° is used if the maximum exceeds 86° and 50° is used if the minimum falls below 50°. *Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>>. n.a. = not available. T = trace. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.